



# High School Assessments



## Information for Educators

### What are the ACT High School Assessments?

ACT®, Inc. has provided testing services for more than 50 years and their assessments have evolved over the years to reflect the nation's view of education to embrace lifelong learning and prepare students to be college and career ready after high school graduation. In compliance with the 2011 Assembly Bill, Act 20, and the biennial budget, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) entered into a partnership with ACT®, Inc. during the 2014-15 school year to comprehensively assess Wisconsin high school students:

- 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the ACT Aspire™ Early High School assessment in the spring.
- 11th grade students will take the ACT® with writing and the ACT® WorkKeys® in the spring.

#### ACT Aspire™ Early High School

ACT Aspire assesses student readiness in English, mathematics, reading, science, and writing.



#### The ACT® with writing

The ACT with writing consists of four multiple-choice tests: English, mathematics, reading, and science; and a 40-minute essay test that measures student writing skills.

#### ACT® WorkKeys®

ACT WorkKeys® is an applied skills assessment that measures essential workplace skills in three areas: applied mathematics, graphic literacy, and workplace documents.

### How are the test results used?

All students will be administered these assessments except for the 1% of students with significant cognitive disabilities who will be assessed with an alternate assessment. This system of assessments will allow for growth to be measured throughout a student's high school career. DPI will also use the ACT® with writing for the high school accountability measure in order to determine the extent to which schools and districts meet proficiency standards.

### What type of scores will be provided?

- ACT Aspire Early High School scores are reported on a 3 digit scale. These scores will predict future ACT scores and WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate attainment.
- ACT scores range from 1 to 36 for each of the subtests and a total test composite. Students will also receive a writing score ranging from 2 to 12. Under standard conditions or with ACT-approved accommodations, scores earned on the ACT can be used by students for college enrollment, scholarships, and NCAA eligibility requirements.

- Students can earn WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificates (NCRC) that are recognized nationally by businesses and industries. National Career Readiness Certificates are earned at four different levels: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum depending on a student's performance on the three WorkKeys tests.
- Score reports will be available 3-8 weeks after each assessment is given.

#### **Where can I find sample or practice test questions?**

Practice tests and sample test questions are available from ACT. Actual test items are not released.

- ACT Aspire™ Early High School
  - <http://actaspire.pearson.com/exemplars.html>
- The ACT with writing
  - <http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/Preparing-for-the-ACT.pdf>
- The ACT with writing sample writing prompts:
  - <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/writing-sample-essays.html>
- ACT WorkKeys:
  - <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/workkeys-for-job-seekers/preparation.html>

#### **What learning standards do the ACT High School Assessments measure?**

ACT and DPI work collaboratively to ensure that the ACT assessments measure what students have learned through our adopted standards. If Wisconsin students are taught with the rigor and complexity as required by the Common Core, they will be well prepared to be successful with the ACT assessments.

#### **What are the Wisconsin State Standards?**

The Wisconsin State Standards define the knowledge and skills students should take away from their K-12 schooling to be successfully prepared for postsecondary and career opportunities. The Wisconsin State Standards are available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/standards>.

#### **More Information**

For more information about the ACT High School Assessments, contact the Office of Student Assessment at [osamail@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:osamail@dpi.wi.gov)

